

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1. (Previously Presented) Method for blacking components, the method comprising: subjecting a surface to a heat treatment with simultaneous administration of a carbon-emitting medium inside a processing space.

2. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the heat treatment takes place at low pressure.

3. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein a low pressure from 0.01 mbar to 100 mbar is applied.

4. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 3, wherein a low pressure from 0.1 mbar to 15 mbar is applied.

5. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the heat treatment is conducted at a temperature from 200° C to 700° C.

6. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 5, wherein the heat treatment is conducted at a temperature from 300° C to 570° C.

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 5, wherein the heat treatment takes place at a temperature from 350° C to 475° C.

8. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein a regulation of a processing time takes place as a function of temperature and/or pressure.

9. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein a carbon content is regulated inside the processing space as a function of temperature.

10. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the carbon-emitting medium is administered in the form of a gas.

11. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the carbon-emitting medium is administered in the form of a liquid.

12. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein hydrocarbons are administered as a carbon-emitting medium.

13. – 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 12, wherein the hydrocarbons are acetylene and/or carbon monoxide.